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SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1912.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Whatever else may happen in this
spectacular campaign, one thing is cer-
tain. The fight between Taft and
Roosevelt will be fought to the bitter
end. There can be no compromise.

President Taft cannot step aside.
There is no reason why he should be
asked to do so. Roosevelt will not with-
draw. He is not built that way. The
struggle will be carried into the national
convention. The outcome will be the
renomination of the President, who al-
ready has one-third of the total number
of delegates, and who is assured of a
very large majority. The talk of a
compromise candidate seems illogical
and absurd. The Republican party may
be defeated with Taft as its candidate;
it is certain to lose with any other name
at the head of its ticket. It cannot in-
dorse President Taft's administration
and then confess its weakness by nam-
ing a new standard-bearer. If the
President should be refused a renomina-
tion by his party, his friends, and
they are legion, would resent the action.
They know that he has been faithful
and efficient. A compromise candidate
would not please or win over the
Roosevelt contingent. They want Theo-
dore or nobody. So the talk about a
compromise selection might as well be
dismissed unless the Republican party
intends to commit political suicide.

It is true that the Roosevelt stock
went up a few points because of the re-
sult in Illinois. The prime factor in the
Illinois situation, however, was not so
much Roosevelt as it was Lorimer. The
anti-Lorimer sentiment, which is almost
universal, found in Roosevelt a point of
crystallization. Roosevelt, with good
political judgment, touched the sore spot
in Illinois and gained thereby; but if
Roosevelt had not been in the race, the
revulsion against Lorimer would have
discovered some other means of mani-
festing itself. This Illinois victory and
the showing made in Pennsylvania yes-
terday are the only substantial achieve-
ments of the Roosevelt campaign. He
has not been a factor in his own State
of New York. In Michigan, where Gov.
Osborn is his avowed adherent, he
secured only a handful of delegates,
and their rival convention was a farce.
In other States he has obtained a few
scattering delegates, and most of these
have contests on their hands.

There can be no overlooking the fact,
however, that Roosevelt is constantly
playing to put the administration upon
the defensive. He is forcing the fight
all along the line. He has a remarka-
ble facility for chameleonic changes, and
already the memory of his Columbus
speech seems to have passed out of the
public mind. He is now engaged in
criticizing President Taft, and especially
the men who are supporting Taft. He
is winning applause because he is at-
tacking the political bosses. He is
against Lorimer in Illinois, he de-
nounces Barnes in New York, he sacri-
fices Penrose in Pennsylvania. He
knows that the trend of public sentiment
during the past decade has been away
from the domination of the political
boss, and he is seeking to accentuate
and take advantage of this fact. He has
apparently forgotten all about the im-
mature, the referendum, and the recall,
and he is silent on the tariff. His slogan
is now "Down with the boss," be-
cause he finds that it is most popular
with the masses. He can hammer
home with perfect safety and with cer-
tainity of applause, and he is doing it
to his heart's content.

Meanwhile, President Taft proceeds
with dignity and unflinching temper. His
personal attitude is the keynote of his
campaign. Nobody is attacking Roose-
velt, nobody is being betrayed into ex-
cited language. The President occa-
sionally points out the danger which is
threatened in the assault upon the in-
dependence of the judiciary, and the
President's friends are educating the
country to a knowledge of the good
work accomplished by his administra-
tion. Occasionally there is some pri-
vate grudge against Roosevelt at a
counterblow. It is evident, however,
that the President does not intend to
be in any way responsible for increas-
ing the difficulties of the situation. What-
ever division there may be in the Re-
publican party, it must be of Roosevelt's
making. The President will not in-
crease it by entering into an unseemly
contest. It is believed, apparently, that

in the end, when the noise and fury of
the Roosevelt campaign have died
everybody's ears, this attitude will ap-
pear to the good sense of the Ameri-
can people.

There is one phase of the Roosevelt
movement which is almost inexplicable.
Is there a change of public opinion in
the matter of a third term?

Before the jury of the whole Ameri-
can people Roosevelt is the chief witness
against himself upon this question. He
not only declared that he would not be
a candidate again under any circum-
stances, not even accept a nomination,
but he declared that the wise custom of
limiting a President to two terms should
be honored, both in substance and in
form. In spite of this, however, he
carries Illinois. It makes one wonder
whether, as a nation, we are drifting
away from the wise and safe precedent
under which our government has been
administered during so many years.

As Roosevelt will not be nominated,
the question as to whether a President
shall have more than two terms in this
country will not have to be answered
this year. At the same time, the fol-
lowing which Roosevelt has developed
indicate that the specter of a third
term does not weigh heavily upon some
minds. There is still enough body and
substance to the anti-third term idea,
however, to defeat Roosevelt if through
a remote possibility he should be nomi-
nated. The examples of George Wash-
ington, who declined a third term, and
of Ulysses S. Grant, who was refused
a third term, are not to be forgotten.
The American people have not yet
reached the point where their political,
moral and industrial salvation can be
wrought only by one man.

But suppose—and it is a remote and
distant supposition—Roosevelt should
be chosen for a third term. Greater he
would be than Washington or Grant. He
would be the one American citizen who
had been able to overturn precedent and
tradition! The White House would have
to be enlarged!

Some months ago, in discussing the
then existing political situation, The
Washington Herald emphasized the
chances of Speaker Clark as the Demo-
cratic Presidential nominee. Since that
time the Clark boom has steadily grown.
The result in Illinois proves his popu-
larity in the West, and unless the other
candidates begin to show some strength
the Clark band wagon will look very at-
tractive to those delegates who want to
be upon the winning side.

Champ Clark's advantages as a candi-
date are, many. He has had a
straight Democratic record, while Wil-
son and Harmon were not always in
accord with the organization; he is a
progressive to the extent of having vot-
ed for the initiative and referendum in
the Missouri Legislature, and yet he is
conservative enough to believe that
this question, and others of similar
character, like the recall, are State and
not national issues; and he is of the
type of American citizenship which uni-
versally appeals. The only flaw which
his enemies can find in his record is a
speech, delivered many years ago, where
he declared his free trade sentiments
and expressed a willingness to see the
custom-houses destroyed. If he should
be the nominee the Republicans would
undoubtedly make the most of this de-
claration and appeal to the business in-
terests of the country to save Ameri-
can industries from destruction. Gen.
Hancock went to defeat for uttering a
phrase which is now acknowledged as
almost axiomatic, and another phrase
was Blaine's undoing. The effect of a
single utterance upon a candidate's po-
litical fortunes cannot be overestimated.

It is impossible, however, to predict
what the Baltimore convention will do.
The Democratic party is playing a wait-
ing game. Its nominee and its policies
will be largely determined by the action
of the Republicans at Chicago. New
York will, as usual, have a large voice
in the decision. The New York dele-
gation has been chosen, but the con-
vention carefully avoided all reference
to candidates. Mr. Murphy—and Mr.
Barnes on the Republican side is in the
same situation—is not in politics for his
health. Being a practical and not a sen-
timental politician, he wants a candidate
who can carry New York and thus be
elected President. When Mr. Murphy
agrees to support any candidate, how-
ever, it will be upon an understanding
that will not be to Murphy's disadvan-
tage. When the agreement has finally
been reached, the nomination will be
made.

Of course, this is not always the case.
Grover Cleveland was renominated at
Chicago, despite the fact that all the
New York delegates signed a paper as-
serting that he could not carry the
State. In the end, however, Tammany
was placated and Cleveland was elected.
It will be unusual if New York is
not a potent factor at the Baltimore con-
vention. And nobody knows positively
where New York will finally land. That
there is an undercurrent in New York
toward Mr. Underwood is certain.

With President Taft as the Republi-
can nominee, Ohio will also be a battle-
ground. This is one of the strongest
arguments in Gov. Harmon's favor, but
Mr. Bryan, determined that Gov. Har-
mon shall not be nominated, if he can
prevent it, proposes to stir up the Har-
mon opposition in Ohio through a per-
sonal campaign. Upon the result of his
autagonistic effort much will depend. If
he can demonstrate that he has a suffi-
cient following in the State to jeopardize
Harmon's election, the convention will
certainly take that fact into ac-
count. The Democrats, if they hope to
win, must certainly select a candidate
upon whom all factions in their party
can unite.

Give Him a Chance.

No one can doubt the great improve-
ment that has taken place in the method
of caring for the refractory small boy
who transgresses the law. The Juve-
nile Court is doing most excellent work
in this direction, even though its influ-
ence for good be measured by no measur-
able standard as keeping the young mis-
creant away from the older hardened
criminal. But in the larger field of en-
couragement and probationary work
which Judge De Lacy and his allies are
doing, there is much to be commended.

In handling the cases of juvenile of-
fenders, it is certain that mercy and
wise discretion should play far larger
parts than should the cold exactions of
law and justice. We are all, some-
times, too much inclined to take the of-
fense of the young too seriously, or, at
least, to unduly magnify the deviations
of the little ones from the path of recti-
tude. At best it is a big task for one
of these little ones to fit himself into the
paths of morality and good behavior
with that degree of accuracy and pre-
cision that some demand of him. They
are only little fellows whose experiences
in the big world are not large enough
or full enough to draw that well-marked
line that divides right from wrong in the
minds of wiser and older ones.

All of the work for the young in
school, in church, and in the home is
only formative, and the lesson to be
learned that will make a child fit into
the social world properly is a hard one.
There are none of us older ones any
better than we ought to be and it is a
small wonder that the little feet go
astray and wobble as they go along the
straight and narrow path, too often to
an accompaniment of scoldings, hard
words, and blows.

It is a serious thing to have a small
offender to court, and it ought not to be
done on slight pretext or in doubtful
cases. Give the little fellow the bene-
fit of the doubt. Arrest is a disgrace
that is likely to attach a stigma to a
child that can easily follow him through
life and prove either a handicap to his
success or may so embitter and dis-
courage him that no real good results
from it. Then, too, it is hard for him to
stand the gibes and teasing of the other
fellows. There are a lot of cases in
which society does not demand such
harsh measures for its protection against
the little wayward one who has stumbled
and, morally, stumbled his toe.

Above all, when such cases do come
before the Juvenile Court let no more
publicity be given to them than is ab-
solutely necessary. A boy of twelve
may be a very different boy at thirteen.
The turning point may come suddenly.
But, if through unnecessary publicity
he has been publicly known as an of-
fender in some slight boyish escapade
or minor offense, he will find the road
back all the harder for his little feet to
climb.

It is a great work that is being done
in the Juvenile Court in Washington.
The sound common sense that generally
prevails in it is one of the strongest
forces for good in the community. Let
us go just a little further, and by spar-
ing the little malfactor all harmful
publicity in the matter, help him find
himself and make his moral improve-
ment easier for him and, at the same
time, more probable.

A New Child-labor Bill.

Many elements in the community
working for the revision of the District
statutes will welcome heartily the mea-
sure introduced by Representative Cox of
Ohio Friday, providing a new child-
labor law in the city.

It will crystallize support from the
many humane organizations which have
sought to eliminate the night messen-
ger boy from city life, for instance. The
bill prohibits any persons under the age
of twenty-one from delivering messages
after 6 o'clock. This provision meets
the issue of the evil squarely on the
head; there is no getting around it. It
will, of course, create an entirely new
type of messenger boy. It may even open
up new lines of activity for the aged and
the superannuated, for no youth who
has become of age will care to ignore
opportunity by remaining a messenger
boy if he has a grain of intelligence.

In many other ways the bill disposes
of present evils with one broad sweep
and presents new issues for the business
community to cope with. The provision
prohibiting all employment of children
under fourteen years of age will meet
with general approval. The clause re-
garding the challenging by labor inspec-
tors may seem rather drastic, as it places
the burden of proof on the employer. In
its execution, however, it will doubtless
be worked out on a common-sense basis,
without inflicting any undue hardship on
the latter—that is, providing the bill
passes.

The new measure unquestionably is
strict. No child under fourteen years is
allowed to work for pay under its pro-
visions, even during the summer time,
when school is not in session. But it
is in line with the type of reform
which the District needs as a progres-
sive, enlightened municipality.

A Sailor's Will.

From the London Mail.
An old man, Thomas Evans, was fined
at Stratford for being drunk and disor-
derly.

Mr. V. Williams (the chairman)—Do
you want to say anything?
"What's the good of asking anybody
anything?"
"Where do you live?"
"Anywhere."

"Where did you work last?"
"Nowhere."

"How long have you been ashore?"
"A good time."

"How have you been living?"
"As best I can."

"An old man like you?"
"I can't help getting old, can I?"

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

OFFICIAL WARNING.

Do not be deceived by the tattle-tell
of the press, and without any
hesitation at the sound of the siren's
horn.

That spring is officially here.

Do not be deceived by the mud at that
time.

It may at all seasons appear.
The but when your wife does a three-
fingered hat.

That spring is officially here.

Do not be deceived by the strawberry
scent.

Just now they are knobby and dear.
The but when the junior turns of the
heat.

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DELEGATE-AT-LARGE.



GOV. JOHN A. DIX.

He will represent the Democrats of
New York State as a delegate-at-large at
the Democratic National Convention in
Baltimore.

IN DEAR OLD MEXICO.

From the Tropic Daily Capital.
You can't expect much of Mexico. You
can't expect much of any country that
produces a hairless dog.

From the Richmond Journal.
There is one advantage of training base-
ball men in the South—they do not have
so far to walk to get a job in the Mexi-
can army.

From the Baltimore Star.
In a Presidential year troubled Mexico
has a hard time in sticking on the front
pages.

From the Columbia Star.
Madero's soldiers are grumbling be-
cause they have not been paid. They
need Gen. Sherwood down there.

From the Memphis Press-Scimitar.
Whenever President Madero is called
upon to resign, he looks at our Secretary
Wilson's photograph on his desk, and
answers: "I won't either."

From the Cleveland Leader.
In other words, Mexico denies that it
has any intention of being jangled.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.
If the Federal Government of Mexico
has no money, and Granger, the insurgent
leader, no ammunition, as is reported,
they seem to have reached a situation
highly conducive of peace-making. The
Mexican taste for fighting with fists is
not strong.

From the New York American.
The Presidency of Mexico is about as
pleasant a job as renovating barns' nests.

From the Pittsburg Post.
Interest in the Mexican news is kept
alive by the fact that a battle is always
impending.

From the Denver Evening News.
In the assault on Parral by the Mexican
rebels three men were killed. In the
United States far more men than that
are killed in every railroad accident.

From the Chattanooga Times.
"Rout," "Rout," said the dis-
patches about the Mexican rebels' defeat
near Parral, and then their contradictory
information: "It is officially stated that
the rebel losses were three killed and
twelve wounded, but the list undoubtedly
is larger." "Parral battle" in which three
or more were killed; shades of Chicka-
mauga, Gettysburg, and Hillville.

From the Tropic Daily Capital.
Meanwhile, Mexico continues to vindi-
cate President Diaz.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.
A Pittsburg paper refers to the trouble
in Mexico as a civil war. We are unable
to see anything evil about it.

From the Denver Times.
The Mexicans continue to threaten ter-
rible reprisals if Uncle Sam insists on
decency and law enforcement within their
borders. "Though the teeth be sharp, a
soft tongue saves the world for the dentist."

From the Chicago Record-Herald.
A battle near Laguna, Texas, resulted
in the death of a few Mexican rebels.
The Fitzsimmons-Maher battle in the
same neighborhood made the world sit up.

FUNNYBIRDS.



Mr. Bird—Hear to a woman's rights meeting, eh? The best thing you'll
expect me to say the least!

PIONEER MISSOURI PREACHERS.

Went Armed to Church—Laughing.

Devils or Sleepy Ones.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.
Nearly every pioneer preacher in Mis-
souri was as expert in the use of the rifle
as any of the Hyman. Services were
usually held in a neighbor's cabin. No-
tice of a "meeting" was promptly and
generally circulated, and the settlers at-
tended, uniformly bringing their rifles to
guard against possible surprises or to
obtain game on the way to or from the
service.

The practice of carrying firearms was
not abandoned or suspended even on the
Sabbath. An old pioneer states that on
one occasion religious services were held
in Saline County when the preacher pro-
claimed the gospel of peace with his
hand and his clothing covered with blood
from a deer that he had killed and
hunched his way to the meeting that
morning.

The pioneer preachers labored without
money and without pay. They gained
their subsistence, as did their neighbors,
by the rifle and by their daily toil in the
clearings and the cornfields.

The Rev. Justinian Williams, Metho-
dist, and the Rev. Peyton Nowlin and
the Rev. Thomas Kinney, Baptists, were
the first preachers in Saline County.
They preached on Edmonson's Creek and
in the Big Bottom. "Old Man Nowlin,"
as he was called, was a sedate gentle-
man, dry as a reed, and serene and
but with a kind heart and good intention.
His colleague Kinney, however, was of
a jovial disposition and very popular.

He was without literary attainments, but
invariably provoked his congregation to
laughter. Nowlin took him to task upon
one occasion for his levity. Kinney an-
swered:

"Well, I'd rather preach to laughing
devils than to sleepy ones, as you do.
You make them sleep and I make them
laugh. My congregations will pass years
on the road to heaven. I bet you a con-
skin they will."

THE EXIT OF LIFE.

Nothing Unnerving in Experiences.

of Witnessing Death.

From the New York Evening Mail.
Most people who have never witnessed
a death by accident imagine that it
must be horrible; that the shock would
destroy their nerves; that the tragedy
would haunt them always. It is a great
surprise to them, therefore, to discover
that there may be nothing fearful or un-
nerving in witnessing sudden death. In-
jury, conscious suffering and the despair
of the living are, of course, terrible
to think of with calmness; but in in-
stantaneous death there is only a kind
of wonder, a feeling of unreality. Some-
times it is as if we were witnessing a
poorly acted play.

A short time ago a cable was driving
a horse along upper Seventh Avenue.
The horse became frightened and in-
creased its speed, but not alarmingly.
From the cable's face, however, it could
be seen that the horse was exceeding his
speed limit. Suddenly, after a block or
so, one of the wheels of the vehicle
struck the curb, the cable tilted slightly,
and with apparently not the least at-
tempt to retain his seat, the cable
tumbled out and fell upon the sidewalk,
his head striking the pavement.

It all seemed prearranged and awk-
wardly done. On the stage we might
have laughed at its crudeness. It
seemed impossible that any hurt could
result from a fall like that. The man
did not at any time speak or cry out,
and lay quite still, the color showing in
his face.

At once there were a dozen persons
on the spot. Still the word was spoken
silently and quickly the man was
lifted into another cab, a number
given. When those who had stood a
block away reached the place there
was nothing to indicate that anything
unusual had occurred. The people had
dispersed and gone about their busi-
ness. The warm sunshine and the feel
of the fresh air were as usual. The only
one who remained was a man who ob-
served one crimson mark. And all the
world was just the same. Only there
was one cable less, an old black horse
without a master, and perhaps
somewhere in the crowd a faint sense
of the city a woman and children found
themselves face to face with the great-
est of mysteries.

ANNIVERSARY DATA.

APRIL 14, 1912.

President Abraham Lincoln was as-
sassinated by John Wilkes Booth,
while attending a performance at
Ford's Opera House, Washington, on
the evening of Good Friday forty-
seven years ago to-day.

Fourteen years ago to-day Congress
adopted a resolution directing Presi-
dent McKinley to intervene at once
for the purpose of stopping the war
in Cuba, and empowering him to use
the land and naval forces of the
United States to secure that end.

Fifty-two years ago to-day (Sun-
day) Maj. Anderson and his little
band of seventy men were driven from
Port Republic to the beat of drums and
with colors flying, after saluting the
flag with fifty guns, having accepted
the very liberal terms of evacuation
proffered by Gen. Beauregard.